Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIE-00

AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 ABF-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 OIC-02 L-02

H-01 /082 W

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O R 200926Z DEC 74 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5315 INFO USMISSION USUN

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, UNESCO
SUBJECT: FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VOTE ON PUNITIVE REDUCTION OF CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO

REF: PARIS 29601

1. IN CONTRAST PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED EXPECTATION (REFTEL) THAT FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD LIKELY NOT REPEAT NOT APPROVE FRENCH SENATE'S INITIATIVE TO REDUCE BY 10 PERCENT THE GOF CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO, FRENCH DEPUTY PERMREP TO UNESCO (CHESNEAU) TOLD DELOFF THERE NOW A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT REDUCTION WILL GO THROUGH. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, PROPOSED SUM TO CUT WOULD BE 2 MILLION FRANCS (ABOUT \$450,000). ASSEMBLY VOTE WILL BE CAST BY DECEMBER 23 DEADLINE FOR CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET.

2. CHESNEAU CITED CONTINUING INTENSE PUBLIC CRITICISM IN FRANCE OF UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE DECISIONS RE ISRAEL AND RESULTANT HESITANCY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON ISSUE THAT HAS AROUSED STRONG CRITICISM FROM ALL IDEO-

LOGICAL QUARTERS. ISSUE ARISES IN CONTEXT OF NATIONAL BUDGET IN WHICH THERE MANY ITEMS OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN UNESCO CONTRIBUTION FOR GOVERNMENT TO DEFEND.

3. HOWEVER, CHESNEAU OBSERVED THAT CONSIDERATION OF FRANCE AS HOST COUNTRY FOR UNESCO HEADQUARTERS MAY ULTI-MATELY DISSUADE ASSEMBLY FROM TAKING CONCRETE SANCTION AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION. HE NOTED TOO THAT QUAI IS QUITE SENSITIVE TO CONSIDERATION OF FRANCE HONORING ITS LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AS UNESCO MEMBER, ALTHOUGH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES PRESENTLY SEEM INDIFFERENT TO THIS ARGUMENT.

4. CHESNEAU PROMISED TO ADVISE PERMDEL THE MOMENT HE RECEIVES NEWS OF THE ASSEMBLY VOTE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: VOTING, RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 20 DEC 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS30590

Document Number: 1974PARIS30590 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740370-0737

From: PARIS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741219/aaaaaptd.tel Line Count: 77 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 74 PARIS 29601 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: CunninFX

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 06 MAY 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VOTE ON PUNITIVE REDUC- TION OF CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005